

Culture • Lifestyle • Faces

SPRING/SUMMER  
2019

# ISLAND TEMPTATIONS

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a patterned bikini top and bottom, and large round sunglasses, is posing on the deck of a boat. She is holding onto a rope with her left hand and adjusting her sunglasses with her right hand. The background shows a clear blue sky and turquoise water.

## *In this edition:*

- Fab Family Vacation Activities
- Seaworthy Swimsuits
- Culinary Adventures
- Carnival 65 Review



DAVID YURMAN



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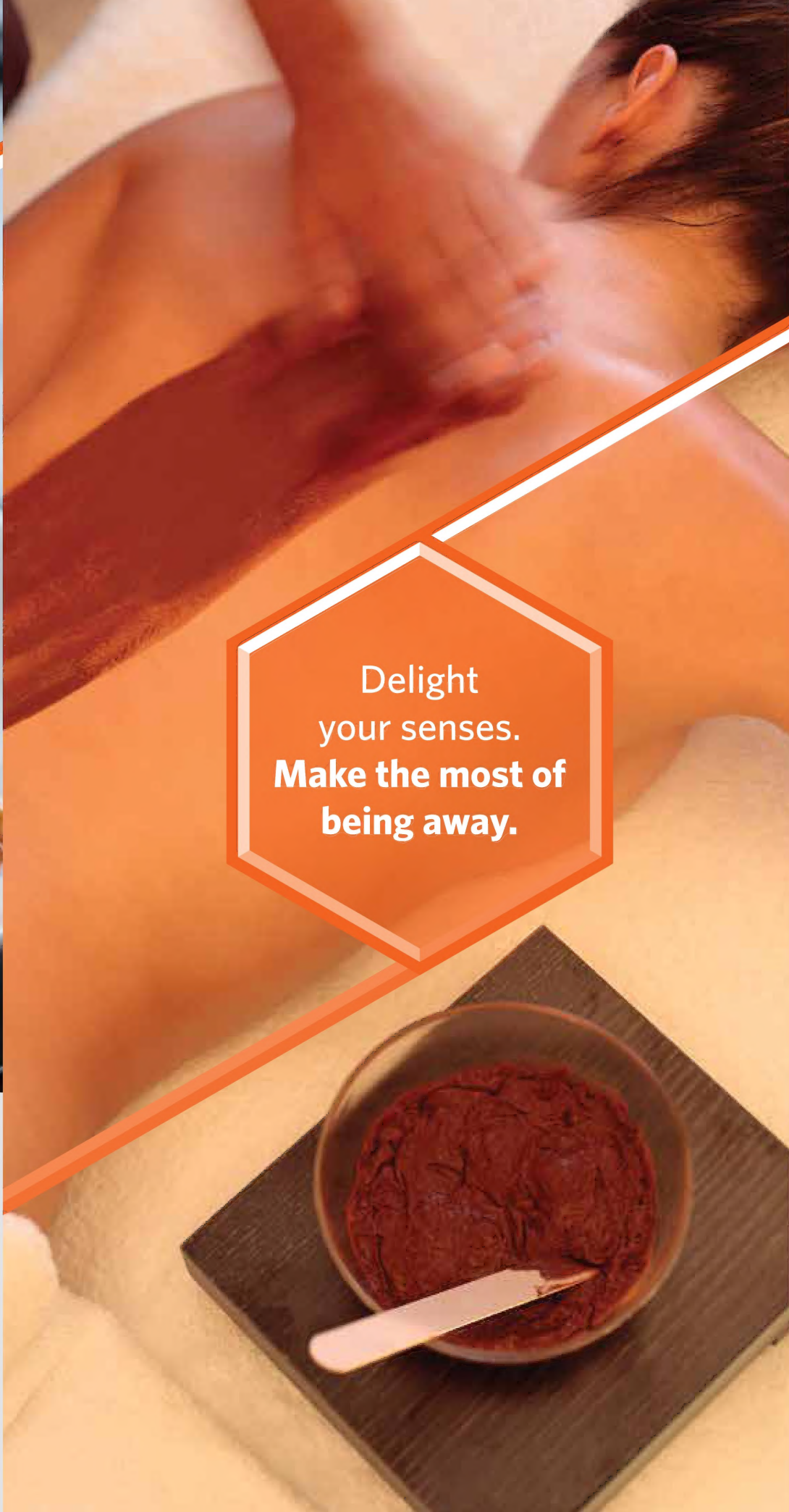
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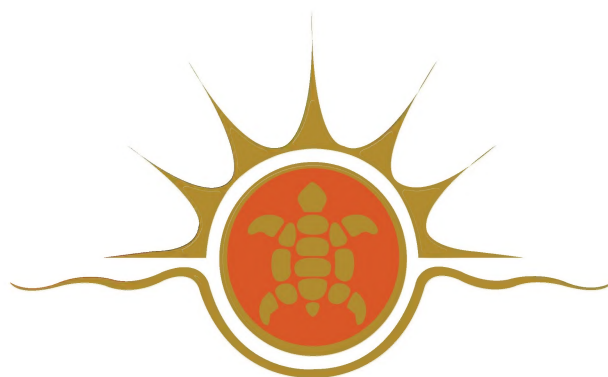
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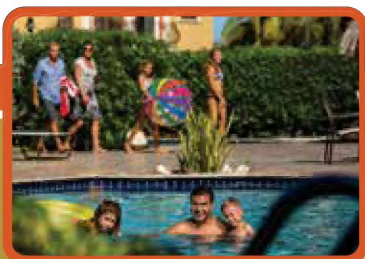
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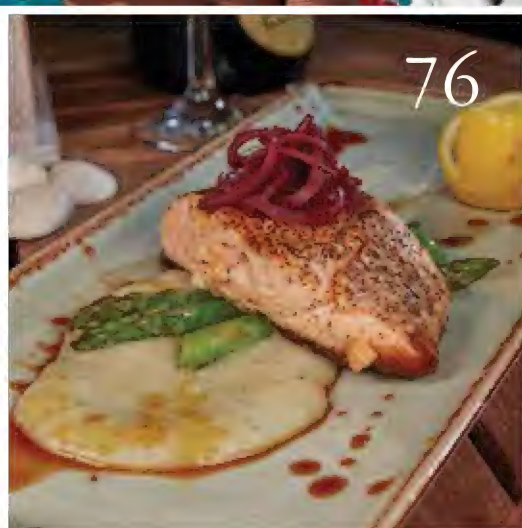
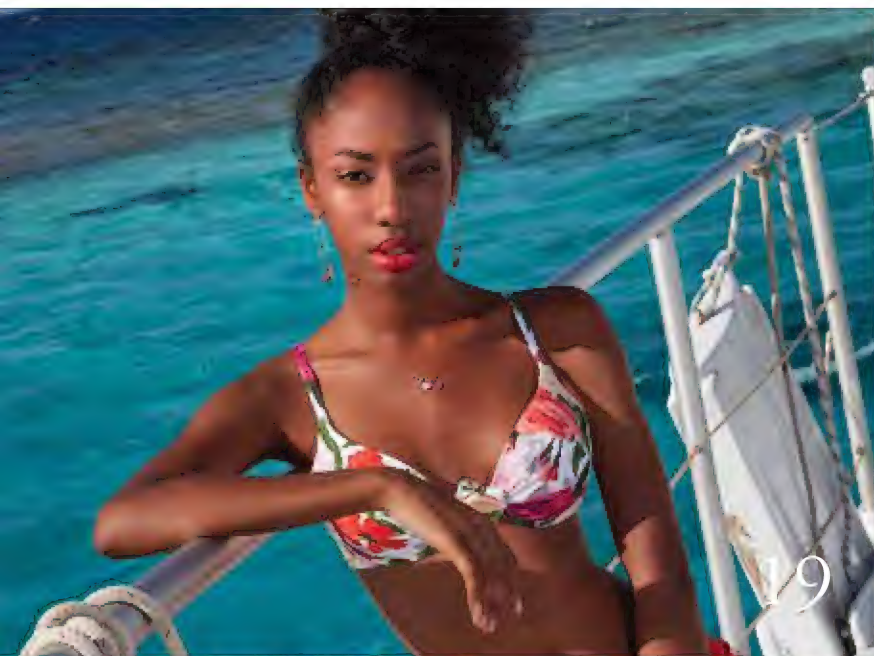
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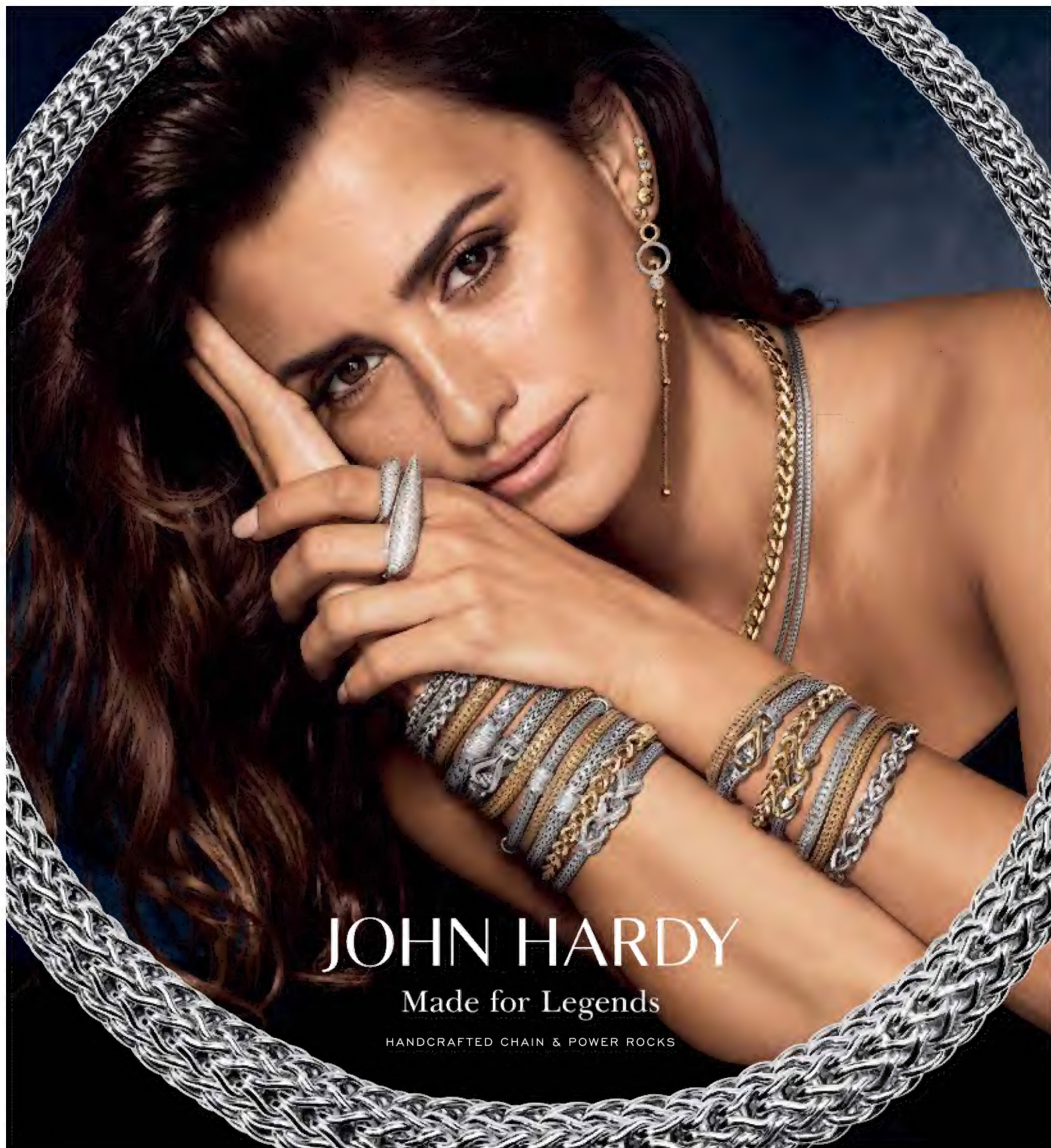
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JOHN HARDY

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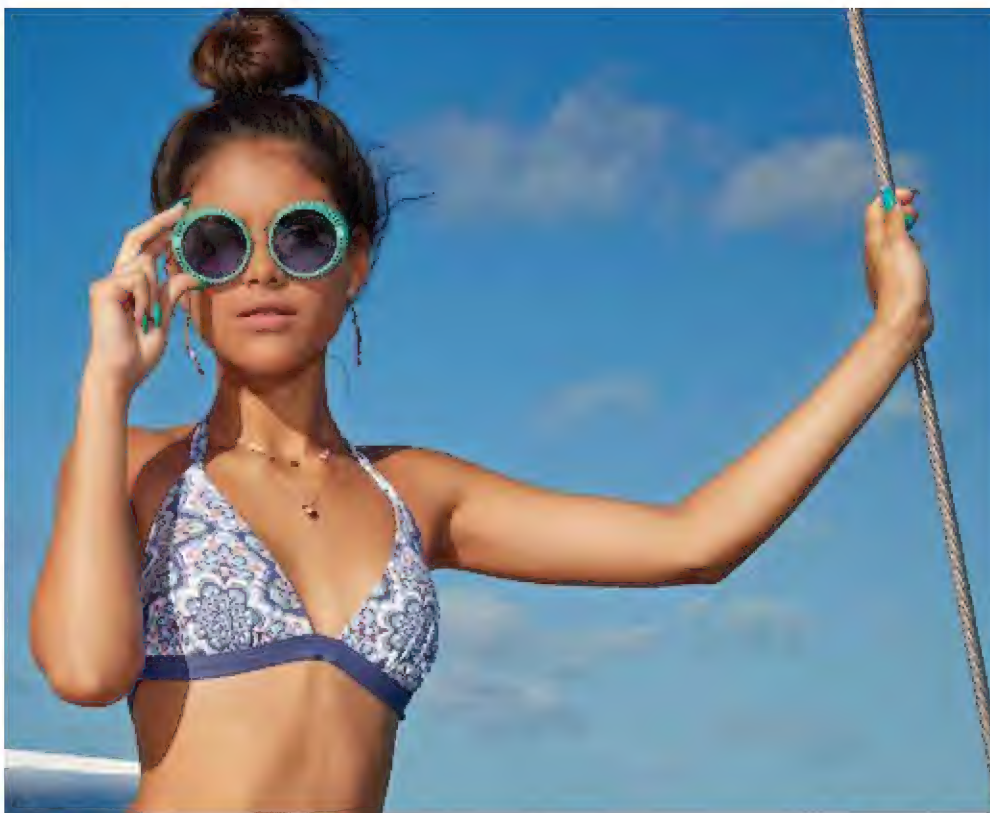
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# Our Front COVER

Shot by Steve Keith aboard Red Sail Sports' catamaran, *Balia*, at the gorgeous Spanish Lagoon. Cover girl Claudia Caralps sports a bikini from The Juggling Fish Swimwear, jewelry from Little Switzerland, and Oxydo sunglasses from Kok Optica. See our Buyer's Guide on page 34 for more information. Hair and makeup by Maria Alejandra.



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Photography by Steve Keith

20

e must admit that spending the day sailing Aruba's coastline with Red Sail Sports and shooting the latest swimsuit fashions from The Juggling Fish Swimwear is a pretty good gig! We loved glamming it up a bit with some funky sunglasses from Kok Optica and stunning contemporary jewelry lines from Little Switzerland.

Enjoy the ride and be sure to book your own at-sea Aruba adventure with Red Sail Sports—and look island chic while doing it! See our Buyer's Guide on page 34 for all the details.

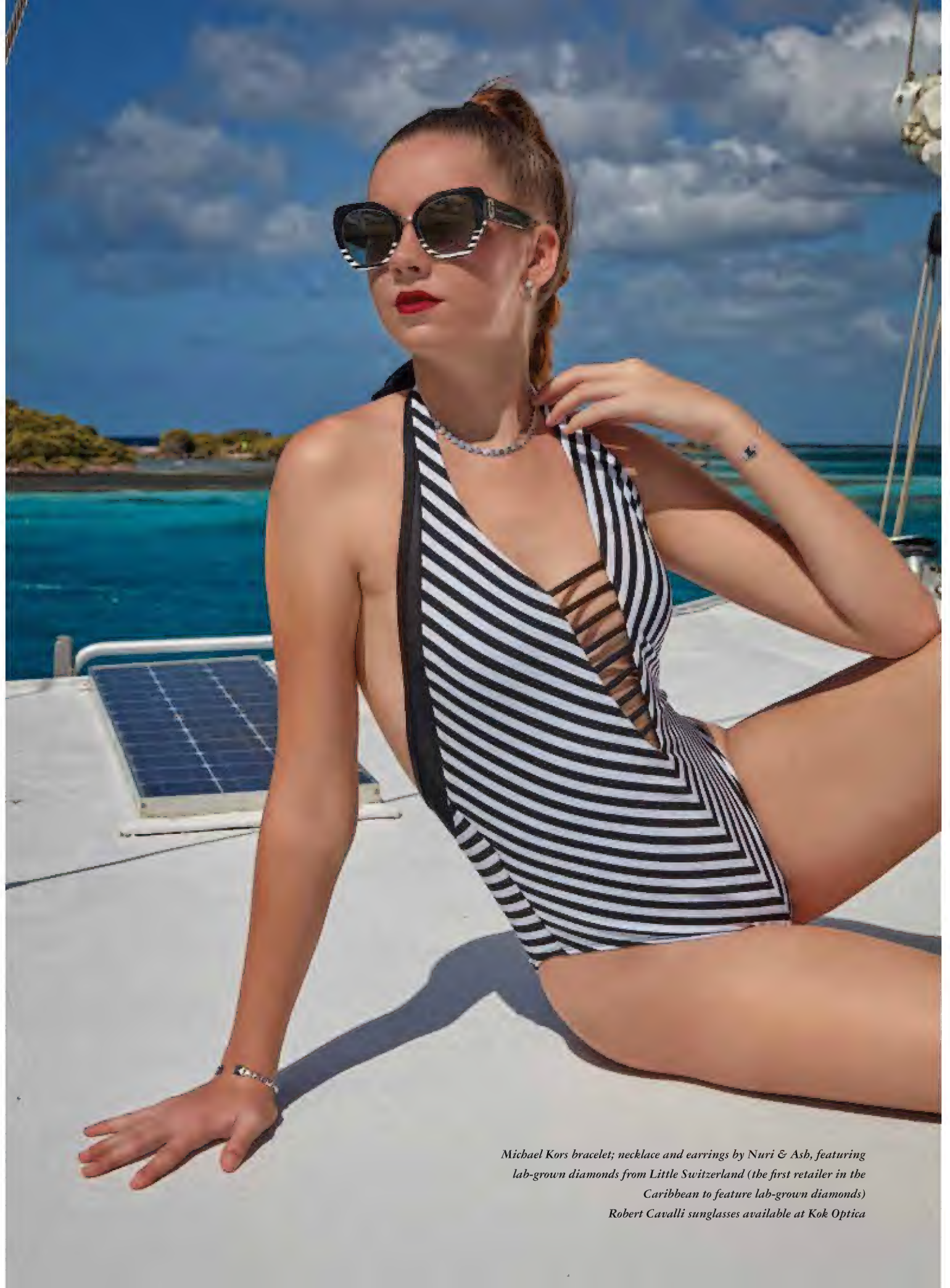
Hair and makeup by Maria Alejandra. 

*Swarovski jewelry available at Little Switzerland*

*Necklaces by Lagos*

*Oxydo sunglasses available at Kok Optica*





*Michael Kors bracelet; necklace and earrings by Nuri & Asb, featuring  
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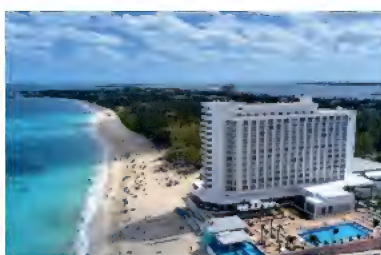
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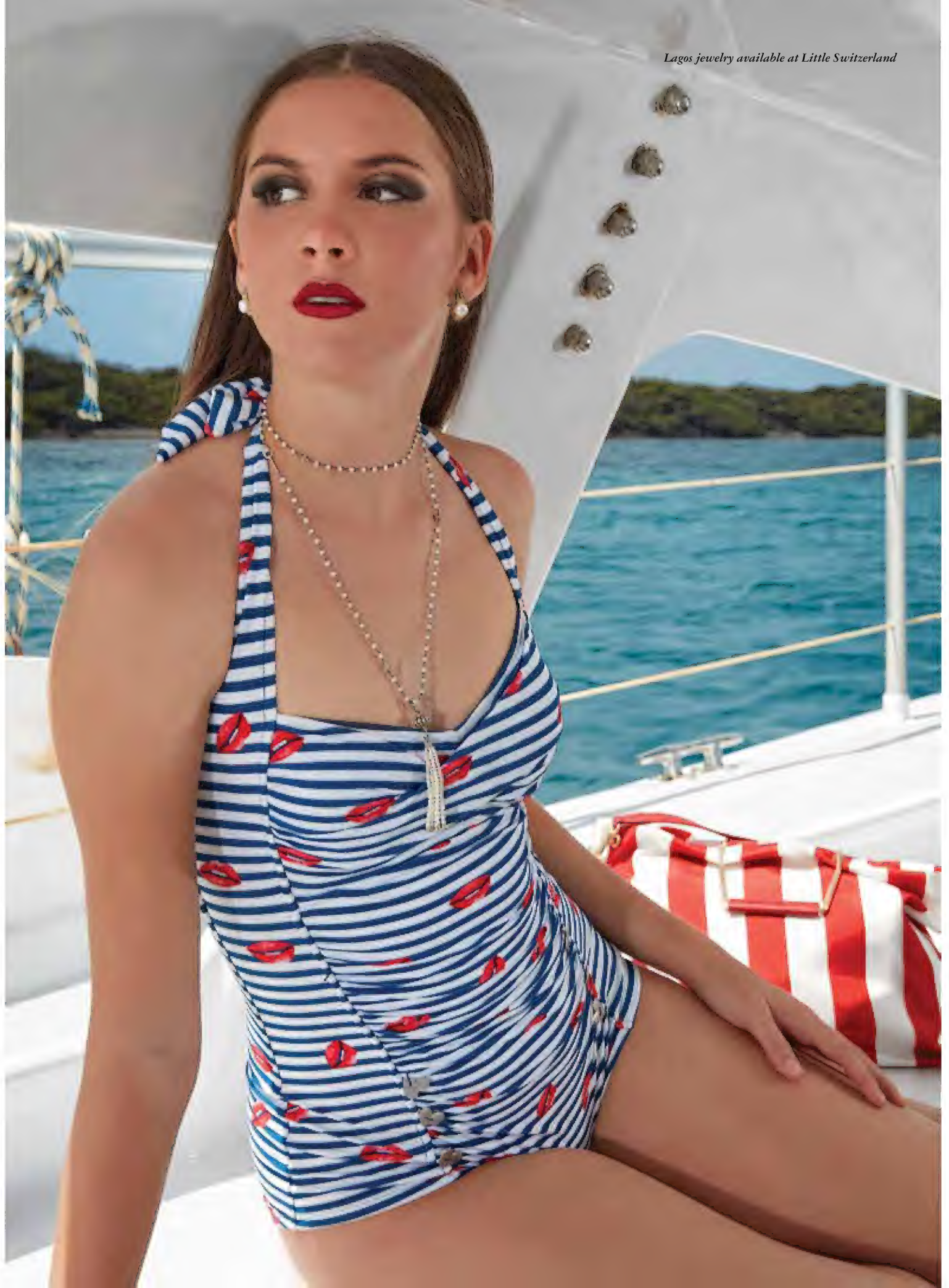


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*Necklace by Lagos; earrings by Nuri & Asb, featuring  
lab-grown diamonds from Little Switzerland (the first  
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*Lagos jewelry available at Little Switzerland*



*Michael Kors necklace and bracelet; earrings  
by Nuri & Asb, featuring lab-grown diamonds from  
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*Swarovski jewelry available at Little Switzerland*



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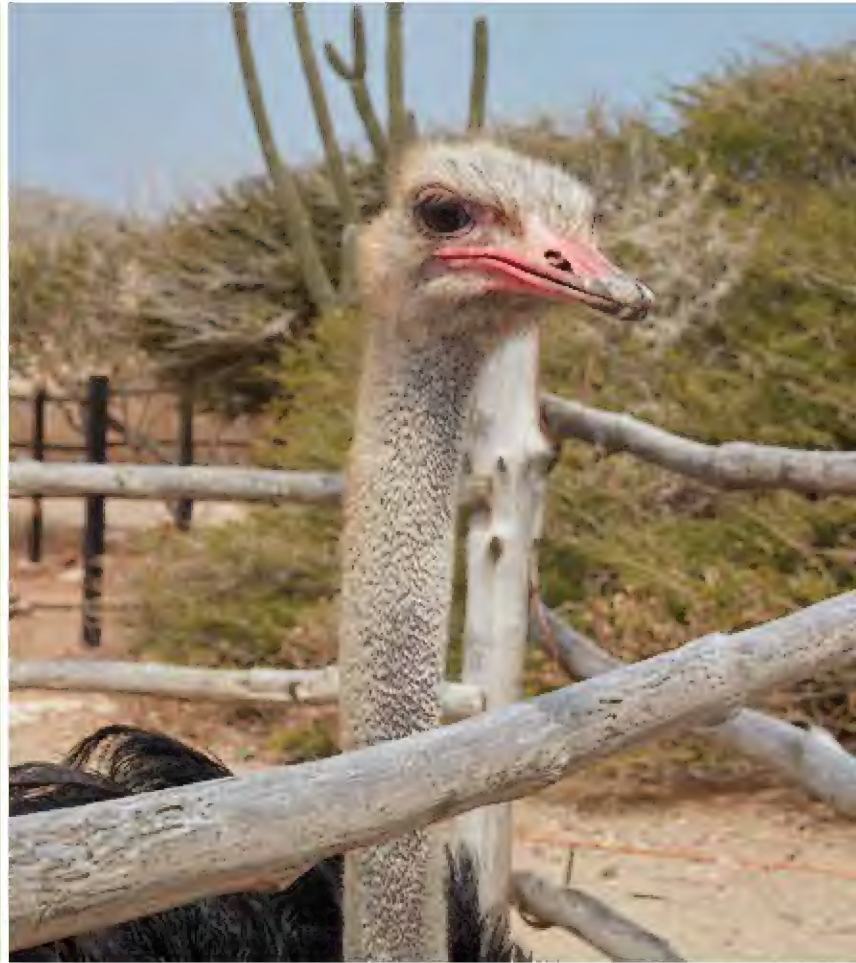
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# Aruba Is for Families



Text by Debbie Kunder  
Photography by Steve Keith

For all Caribbean destinations are ideal for families, but Aruba certainly knows how to please every member of your bunch with a wide variety of fun, family-approved activities. Visiting interactive animal sanctuaries, engaging in underwater adventures, exploring natural attractions, and much more will bring your family together in a fun and meaningful way—and keep the kids off their phones!

We rounded up a few of our favorite family-friendly activities that Aruba has to offer. For more great ideas, we invite you to visit When in Aruba's ([www.wheninaruba.com](http://www.wheninaruba.com)) Family Vacations page.



## Aruba Butterfly Farm

Located in Palm Beach, the Aruba Butterfly Farm invites the whole family to step within its mesh enclosure to observe hundreds of butterflies representing many different species from around the globe as they flit and flutter among the flowering plants. Dedicated tour guides provide engaging, kid-friendly explanations of butterfly habits and the stages of metamorphosis, with each stage clearly on display within the farm. Indeed, a visit to the farm is a great way to “sneak” an educational experience into your family vacation.

Kids will enjoy exploring all the nooks and crannies within the farm, searching for the most beautiful butterfly, while Mom and Dad will enjoy the little ponds and trickling fountains that enhance the sense of tranquility within this tropical butterfly haven. Wear bright colors to coax the butterflies into landing on you—it’s good luck!—and make sure to bring your camera. On your way out, pick out a lovely butterfly-inspired souvenir from the gift shop.





## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: J. Irausquin Boulevard,

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## Aruba Ostrich Farm

Aruba's desert landscape and arid climate provide the ideal conditions for the flock of ostriches and emus residing at the Aruba Ostrich Farm. Tours allow guests to interact with these two very unique bird species while learning about their natural behaviors and survival instincts from enthusiastic guides. Kids will get the biggest kick out of hand-feeding the ostriches, which are far from shy! The tour concludes with a visit to the incubator, hatchery, and the special pens for young ostriches and emus.

The farm's huge open-air lodge is dedicated to the ostrich's native African homeland, housing an art boutique that carries authentic goods from Zimbabwe, as well as handicrafts made in Aruba. When everybody gets hungry, relax at the Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant, which serves a locally inspired lunch menu. And while the kids enjoy some shaved ice, parents can partake in the happy hour specials.





## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: Matividiri 57, Paradera, Aruba

Phone: +297-585-9630

Email: [info@arubaostrichfarm.com](mailto:info@arubaostrichfarm.com)

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Rancho Loco is an equestrian center nestled in an idyllic countryside setting in the heart of Santa Cruz, offering riding lessons, horseback riding tours, and boarding and training services for horses. Your whole family will enjoy the “feel” of this ranch, which embodies a free-spirited nature, with the horses roaming the ranch in small herds as they would in the wild, side by side with rescued dogs, a couple of cats, chickens, and even a few turtles, all enjoying life on the ranch together. The ranch is dedicated to breeding its own horses, with three foals born at the ranch within the last year. The ranch caretakers also grow fruits and vegetables on the ranch, making Rancho Loco one of the “greenest” horse ranches in Aruba.

Rancho Loco capitalizes on its proximity to Aruba’s famed Natural Pool, offering horseback riding tours to this unique destination within Arikok National Park. Tours also take riders to explore Moro Beach, tucked along the island’s north coast near the Natural Pool. Rancho Loco’s tours are decidedly family-friendly, accommodating all ages and all levels of experience. (Children must be six years or older to ride their own horse.) What better than a mix of adventure, exploration, and spending time with gentle animals to serve as the ideal bonding experience for your family?



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: Sombre #22E, Santa Cruz,  
Aruba

Phone: + 297-592-6039

Email: [rancholocoaruba.ak@gmail.com](mailto:rancholocoaruba.ak@gmail.com)

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When everyone needs a break from all the thrills, plenty of lounge areas, including beach and private cabanas (both upgrades), provide shaded relaxation, and Mom and Dad might even opt for a soothing massage (upgrade). When hunger or thirst strikes, there are a variety of tasty all-inclusive options to choose from. Sit down for a family meal or simply “grab and go” from one of the snack shacks to recharge before heading out for some more fun!







## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: De Palm Island Way, Balashi, Aruba

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## Arikok National Park

Sprawled across roughly 20% of Aruba's land area, Arikok National Park is dedicated to the preservation of Aruba's nature and its cultural heritage. The park is home to a wide variety of native flora and fauna while promising substantial geological diversity and traces of Aruba's Amerindian and agricultural past. Clearly, there's much for the whole family to explore here! Start your day in the park at the Visitor's Center to peruse the various educational displays and pick up your park map upon paying the entrance fee. The map clearly identifies the many walking and biking trails, recreational areas, historical and geological sites, caves, and other attractions within the park. Highlights include:

**Cunucu Arikok:** This partially restored Aruban farmstead provides a glimpse of Aruba's agricultural past, featuring a traditional adobe house, called a *cas di torto*. It's the main attraction along the Cunucu Arikok Trail, an ideal walking trail for children.

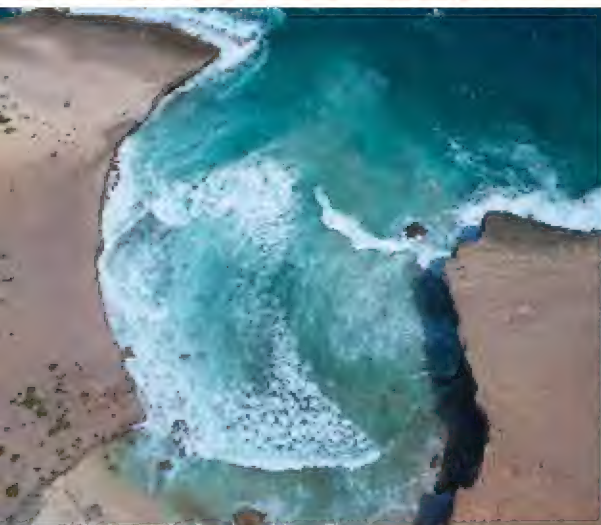




**Hofi Shon Shoco:** Located next to the Visitor's Center, Hofi Shon Shoco is a garden of sorts featuring local plants and fruiting trees. Sit by the traditional adobe house and enjoy the many birds that are attracted by the fruit trees.

**Caves:** Guadirikiri Cave is famous for the natural light that pours in through openings in the cave roof, while Fontein Cave is well known for the Amerindian drawings decorating the walls and ceilings.

**Beaches:** Boca Prins is a secluded beach within the park that harbors stunning sand dunes, which are constantly being reshaped by powerful winds. Close by, the ocean carved twin coves out of a coastal bluff and filled them with soft sand to create Dos Playa, a favorite beach for surfing, sunbathing, and picnicking. (Swimming is not recommended at either of these beaches due to strong undertows.)



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: San Fuego 70, Aruba

Telephone: +297-585-1234

Email: [info@arubanationalpark.org](mailto:info@arubanationalpark.org)

Website:

<https://www.arubanationalpark.org>

Facebook: [Arikok National Park](#)

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tapas 5-10 p.m.  
dinner: until 10 p.m.  
reservations: 586-6066  
after hours call ext. 7002  
[purebeacharuba.com](http://purebeacharuba.com)



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happy hour 5-6 p.m.  
reservations: 523-5016  
[mulligansaruba.com](http://mulligansaruba.com)



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one FREE glass of house wine per person with the purchase of an entrée\*

\*Restrictions apply. Offer subject to change without notice.

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25% off select appetizers monday & friday\* 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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\$9.95 classic brick oven pizzas every tuesday & thursday\*

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Grilled on the famous big green egg! Check out our new Steakhouse menu!

\*Some restrictions may apply. Offer subject to change without notice.

Bring this ad for:

Ask for TODAY'S SPECIAL grilled on the famous big green egg!

Check out our new Steakhouse menu!

\*Some restrictions may apply. Offer subject to change without notice.



# SAN NICOLAS

## Aruba's Hub for Culture & Heritage

Photography by Steve Keith

# A

trip to Aruba's "Sunrise City," San Nicolas, offers culture seekers a variety of museum experiences showcasing various aspects of the island's heritage. Stroll the streets of this historic town for an up-close perspective of Aruba beyond the tourist-driven areas.

We encourage you to make a morning, afternoon, or entire day out of a visit to our southern side of the island. After touring the museums, journey down to Boca Grandi, Baby Beach, and Rodger's Beach to experience more of the island's scenic beaches; try refreshing coconut water right out of the shell at the roadside stand in Seroe Colorado (on the way to Rodger's Beach and Baby Beach); and enjoy local and regional cuisine at spots like O'Niel Caribbean Kitchen (local and Jamaican), Pueblito Paisa (Colombian), and Kamini's Kitchen (Surinamese). You can also shop for local crafts and artwork at Cosecha, where all products have the official national seal of local craftsmanship.

## Exploring Aruba's Museum of Industry

For the past few decades, the island's most important industry has been tourism. What started as locals graciously welcoming island guests to stay with them in their own homes has evolved into a full-blown industry that serves as Aruba's bread and butter. In fact, in terms of its reliance on tourism to power its economy, Aruba ranks second of all islands in the world.

Before tourism grew to its prominence here, islanders revealed their versatility by engaging in a number of industries, including gold mining, aloe cultivation, phosphate mining, and oil refining. The Museum of Industry, housed in the iconic and historic San Nicolas Water Tower, details the significance of these industries and their economic, social, and cultural impact on Aruba through artifacts, memorabilia, and personal accounts.

Be sure to check out the stairwell exhibit called Cultural Mosaic, which highlights the different cultures that have come together to power the various industries on the island. It's these cultures that have created the island's beautiful, multi-textured, multi-cultural social fabric that exists today.

*The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm (closed Sunday).*

*Phone: +297-584-7090*

*Facebook: @moiaruba*





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
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Poker room 7:30pm to 3am; Saturday & Sunday: 11am to 3am.

 The Casino Aruba.

## Hidden Treasures at the San Nicolas Community Museum

The San Nicolas Community Museum stages collections curated to share a slice of the everyday lives of past generations in our island community. The museum, which opened in March of 2013 in a temporary location near the San Nicolas Bus Terminal, now houses the collections of memorabilia in its new permanent location within the walls of the historic Nicolaas Store building.

Local families have donated precious memorabilia and antiques passed down through generations that represent the daily life of a bygone era—from antique record players, sewing machines, and telephones to vintage clothing, barber chairs, and even toilets! Much of the treasured memorabilia was curated by the Odor family, whose devotion to the Museo di Antigüedad created the foundation for the Community Museum.

*The museum is open Monday  
through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm,  
and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm  
(closed Sunday).*

*Phone: +297-280-0018*





## TASTE OF BELGIUM

RESTAURANT

Taste of Belgium Restaurant located at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall is the place to be for all your meetings, breakfast, lunch, special occasions, specialty beers, dinner and so much more. Taste of Belgium is open every day from 8am till midnight every day our team is ready to make your experience unforgettable.

With the focus being on family at Taste of Belgium, every Sunday from 11am till 2.30pm Taste of Belgium offers an extensive brunch menu including a full vegan menu to make sure everyone has something to satisfy their cravings.



Not only does Taste of Belgium offer the largest Belgian beer collection on the island. With the daily happy hour from 5pm to 7pm you have ample opportunity to try every beer in our collection. With a variety of specials ranging from early bird, dinner & movie and even dinner & escape offers. Taste of Belgium is where guests can leisurely start their day, meet friends, hold business meetings as well as arrange wine tastings, high teas and beers.

The Taste of Belgium team invites you to come and enjoy our cozy atmosphere.

Make your reservation today at +297 586 6388  
Open Daily from 8am - midnight | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner | Drinks



### Daily Happy Hour

5pm-7pm | Half price on all drinks incl. Belgian beers, organic cocktails & bottles of wine.

### Sunday Brunch

Every Sunday | 11am - 2.30pm  
Mimosas | \$42.00 p.p.  
Reservation required!

### Private Area

Special occasions, groups & events. Ask for our catering packages, we can work with any budget.

### Early Bird

Daily 5pm to 7pm | 3-course dinner - \$28.50 p.p.

### Vegan Brunch / Lunch

Every day we offer a special Vegan Lunch Menu • Every Sunday a Vegan Brunch  
\*Reservations required

### Dinner & Movie

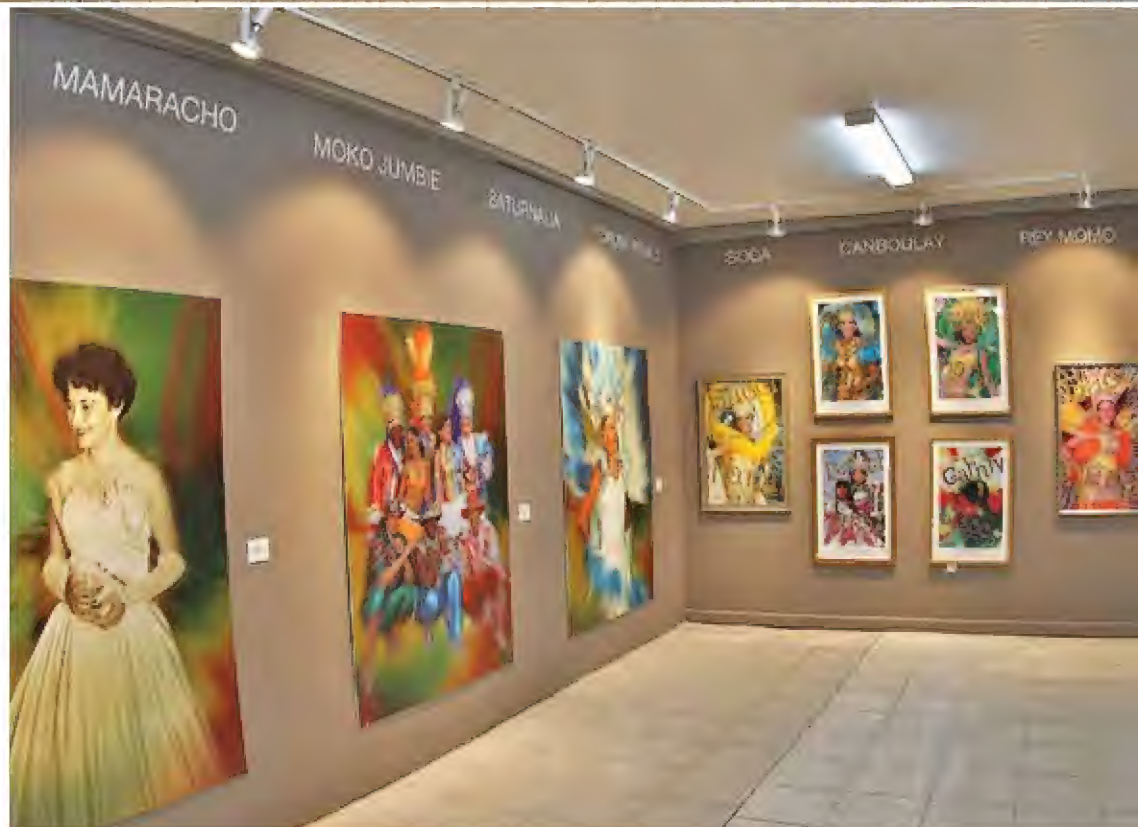
Mon-Fri | 5pm- 10pm  
\$34.50 p.p. 3-course dinner & free movie ticket!

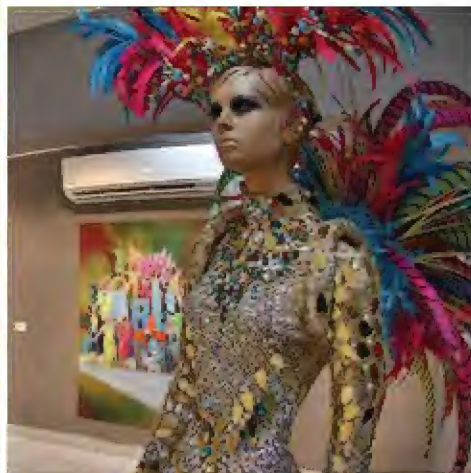


## Catch the Carnival Fever at the Carnival Euphoria Exhibition

In late 2018, the roots of the island's first official museum dedicated to all things Carnival premiered in San Nicolas, the birthplace of Aruba's Carnival. The Carnival Euphoria Exhibition introduces the history, heritage, and cultural and social impact of Aruba's months-long Carnival season while highlighting some of the past and present personalities and organizations that have contributed to the popular celebration on our island.

The exhibit also features images from *Bacchanal*, a local magazine that is produced annually and dedicated to documenting and sharing this special season, as well as costumes and headpieces donated by locals from past Carnivals.





The Carnival Euphoria Exhibition also houses a creative space where various workshops on costume decoration, Carnival makeup application, and the like were held for the community throughout the 2019 Carnival season.

Although the exhibition is temporary, it will form the foundation for a permanent museum that will showcase more costumes, as well as road pieces and various memorabilia from the past 65 years of Aruba's Carnival.

*The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm (closed Sunday).*

*Facebook: @carnivaleuphoria*



Windows  
on Aruba  
RESTAURANT

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\$49 Adults | \$32 Kids 12-17 | \$19 Kids up to 11

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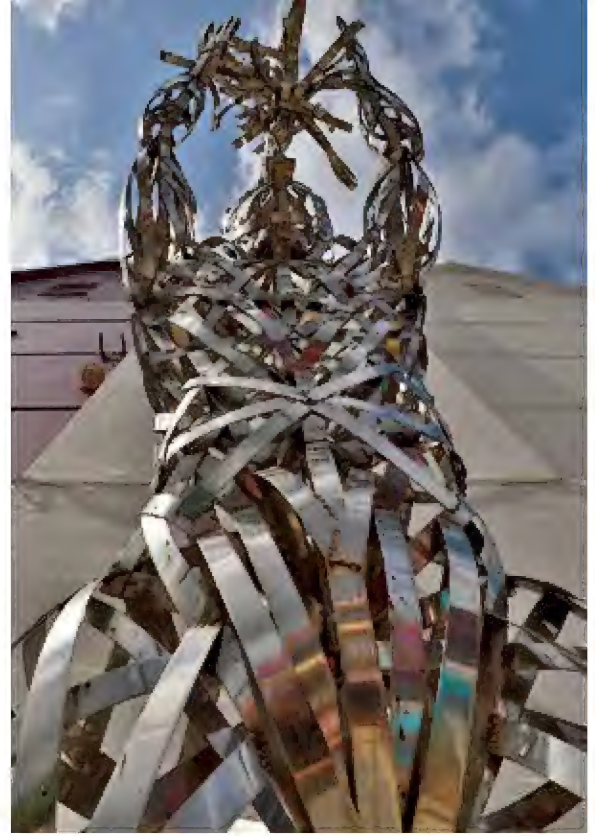
*\*Tax, beverages & gratuity not included.  
Holiday pricing may vary.*

Located at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort on The Links at Divi Aruba Golf Course, J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 93  
DINNER NIGHTLY 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. SUNDAY BRUNCH 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. (one seating only)  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED call 523-5017 or visit [www.windowsonaruba.com](http://www.windowsonaruba.com)

## San Nicolas Street Gallery

In 2016, the first-ever Aruba Art Fair was held in the streets of San Nicolas, highlighting the island's growing and dynamic art scene. From the culinary arts and fashion to mosaics and murals, various art disciplines are celebrated during the now-annual event held in the fall.

Luckily, you don't have to be on the island during the fair to experience some of the curated art. Brilliant street art and murals are added to the buildings on and around San Nicolas' main street every year as the main feature of Aruba Art Fair, leaving behind an evolving street gallery for everyone to enjoy all year. Currently, dozens of works grace the area, created by some of the most popular street and graffiti artists from around the world as well as Aruba. [T](#)





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# Wine on Down the Road

with KUKOO

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

*I*f you have been to Aruba, you have more than likely spent a night or two raising heck and shaking your maracas on the island's original party on wheels—or at the least, you have seen the bright red bus with colorful artwork and graffiti ramble past. Ever since the first bus—a 1957 Chevy school bus—hit the road back in 1997, the Kukoo Kunuku has become a part of Aruba's lexicon of fun. The original Kukoo Kunuku tour, still popular today, is the Dinner & Nightlife Tour, and the Pub Crawl Tour was added a few years ago. Both tours are known for their mischievous but fun-spirited barhopping adventures (locally we call barhopping “going on a paranda”), and just as Aruba enjoys a high number of return visitors, so does the Kukoo Kunuku, with seven buses now running routes around the island.

Kukoo Kunuku owners Marcus and Cindy wanted to give their guests another reason to jump on the bus, recently adding the Wine on Down the Road Tour, coordinated by Maki Wiggins and hosted by sommelier Wouter Koeneman, both seasoned local enthusiasts of Aruba's wine and culinary scene.

Not only is the tour a great excuse for repeaters to come back for more fun, but it's also an ideal option for those wanting something a bit more relaxed and laid back, as well as foodies who want to experience tastes of several of Aruba's best restaurants with wine pairings chosen by the onboard sommelier. The restaurants visited on the tour vary, but often include stops at top restaurants like White Modern Cuisine, Bistro De Suikertuin, Aqua Grill, and Bohemian Bar & Restaurant.



# KUNUKU



## First Stop: White Modern Cuisine

This chef-owned restaurant is located in the clubhouse of the exclusive Gold Coast residential community. It's an ideal first stop to clink glasses and toast to a magnificent sunset. At White Modern Cuisine, celebrated Aruban chef Urvin Croes presents artistic culinary creations where flavor and flair are perfectly matched. On this tour, three courses were presented, with wine pairings selected and presented by Wouter.

*A snack trio of deviled eggs with bell pepper vinaigrette, tomato arancini with mustard mayo, and truffled Gouda cheese balls with truffle mayo was matched nicely with Villa Sandi Prosecco from Italy.*





*Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc+Viognier was partnered with peppered tuna served with a passion-fruit leche de tigre, quinoa and wakame salad, lemon crême, teriyaki gel, and wakame chips.*

*Grilled cobia served with a shrimp, corn, sweet potato, and tomato succotash with Creole sauce and cilantro oil was perfectly paired with Chateau Ste. Michelle Rosé from Washington state.*





## Second Stop: Bistro De Suikertuin

The second stop was at Bistro De Suikertuin, housed in a historic manor on Wilhelminastraat in the heart of downtown Oranjestad. The interior features a cozy ambiance created by the original low ceilings and thick stone walls. The outdoor back patio features an adorable garden frequented by the local bananaquit, a yellow-breasted bird that is known for its love of sugar, hence the restaurant's name, Suikertuin, which means "sugar garden" in Dutch.



*Kesbi yena (a traditional local dish featuring a seasoned chicken mixture topped with melted Gouda) was matched with H3 Chardonnay from Washington state.*

# *Inspiring, Transformative, Sustainable*



## *This* is living the authentic island *lifestyle*



### *Location*

Nestled in a charming countryside neighborhood, just minutes from Aruba's pristine beaches and world-class shopping, dining and entertainment.  
Building with a conscious: we respect our environment, using sustainable practices like our irrigation system utilizing recycled water.  
Building with quality: the entire building is constructed with concrete and masonry.

### *Amenities*

- Lush tropical landscaping
- 25-meter lap pool
- Jacuzzi
- Fitness facility
- 3 beach tennis courts
- Beach volleyball/soccer court
- Playground
- Relaxation zone & hammock garden
- Restaurant & Bar

### *Included Services*

- Private parking
- Private storage unit for each condo
- Beach shuttle
- High-speed WiFi

### *Optional Services*

- Housekeeping
- Rental Management



### Third Stop: Aqua Grill

One of Aruba's most popular seafood restaurants is Palm Beach's Aqua Grill. The casually chic restaurant has a fresh-only approach to the menu, which includes catches from our local fishermen, as well as seafood flown in fresh daily, including live Maine lobster and shellfish for the island's largest raw bar. The restaurant also boasts a viewable, glass-enclosed wine room in the main dining area.

*Fresh Chesapeake crab cakes  
with a mushroom mignonette  
were paired with Moillard  
Pinot Noir from Burgundy,  
France.*





## Fourth Stop: Bohemian Bar & Restaurant

The final stop of the evening was at the alfresco garden venue of Bohemian Bar & Restaurant, located in the heart of Palm Beach. Bohemian, which opened in late 2018, offers a whimsical wink to French cuisine, with a nod to Spain and the Mediterranean region. [T](#)



*Bohemian's decadent chocolate dessert was especially delicious paired with Columbia Crest Grand Estates Cabernet Sauvignon from Washington state.*

*For more information on the Wine on Down the Road culinary adventure, visit the website at [www.kukookunuku.com](http://www.kukookunuku.com).*

# ARUBA CODE OF CONDUCT



## DRESS CODE

- Rude and topless sunbathing are not allowed.
- Wear proper attire in public spaces (e.g. supermarkets, gas stations, hotel lobbies).



## PARKING

- Park in designated areas and not on sidewalks.
- On congested free paid parking, please park in white-marked spaces; yellow-marked spaces are for permit holders only.
- Always lock your car, and do not leave valuables behind.



## BEACHES & DUNES

- Driving or parking on beaches and dunes is prohibited.
- Please dispose properly of your trash.
- Do not dig or start a fire on our beaches and dunes.
- Avoid use of disposable plastic products on the beach.



## LIFE UNDER WATER

- Do not feed any marine life including fishes and turtles.
- Do not pick up starfish for selfies, they can only breathe under water.
- Use coral friendly sunscreen as much as possible in order to protect our marine life.



## ONE HAPPY BEHAVIOR

- Be kind and respectful to others.
- We make an effort to speak four languages.
- Learn a few words in Papiamentu, it's fun.
- Please be patient and embrace being on "island-time".

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU RESPECT. HELP US PROTECT OUR 'ONE HAPPY ISLAND'.

#### ENVIRONMENT

- Single use plastic bags are banned on Aruba, use reusable bags.
- Respect and protect Aruba's flora and fauna.
- Please dispose properly of your trash.

#### TRAFFIC

- Always stop at a red light and no right on red.
- You have the right of way when on the roundabout.
- Use marked pedestrian crossings to cross the street.
- Be respectful of cyclists.

#### IGUANAS

- Respect their space, do not chase them.
- Do not feed iguanas, especially no meat or human food.

#### NORTH COAST

- Our rugged North coastline is not a natural racetrack.
- Please do not speed. Stay on main dirt roads.
- Driving on sand dunes and beaches is prohibited.
- "Wishing" rock stacking is not an Aruban tradition and harmful to the environment and animals.

#### HERITAGE

- The two Potoi trees on Eagle Beach are landmarks, do not hang hammocks or belongings in them.
- Respect church areas and all services taking place here.
- No graffiti or carving.



MORE INFORMATION ON [aruba.com](http://aruba.com)



# Chillin' at Rum Reef



In late 2018, a new bar and lounge experience was launched at Baby Beach. Rum Reef, formerly located on the ground level at JADS Dive Center, moved to a neighboring upstairs location, offering stunning elevated views of the Baby Beach area. There is some interesting history behind the location, which was once part of the Esso Club, a former community center for expats working at Lago Oil & Transport Company, its original construction dating back to the 1920s. Much of it burned in a fire in 1939, but it was rebuilt in the 1950s, and then abandoned in the 1980s. Businesses like JADS and Rum Reef have been slowly bringing the beachfront building back to life.

Many divers and regulars at Baby Beach have refueled and refreshed at Rum Reef for several years

now and will be happy to know that Dennis Fang and his son, JP, have maintained the local, laid-back vibe in the new location, and yes, sassy bartender Maureen is still there mixing her cocktails from scratch (no packaged mixes)—like her famous piña colada made with real coconut cream. And now you can take that tropical libation out onto the terrace or sip it in the infinity pool, as patrons of Rum Reef can enjoy complimentary use of the terrace and pool. And no worries about kids jumping and splashing and cutting into your zen chill session—Rum Reef is for adults only!

Currently, Rum Reef offers beers and cocktails only; however, a kitchen is under construction—stay tuned! 🍹



*Rum Reef is open daily from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call +297-584-6070. Follow all the happenings at Rum Reef on Facebook at @rumreefaruba.*



*Cherry Daiquiri*

*The Blue Wave is a traditional margarita with the addition of Blue Curaçao liqueur.*

*The Caipirinha is made with Brazilian cachaça (sugarcane hard liquor), and Maureen adds a splash of coecoei, an agave liquor from Aruba, for extra flavor, potency, and an authentic Aruban touch!*

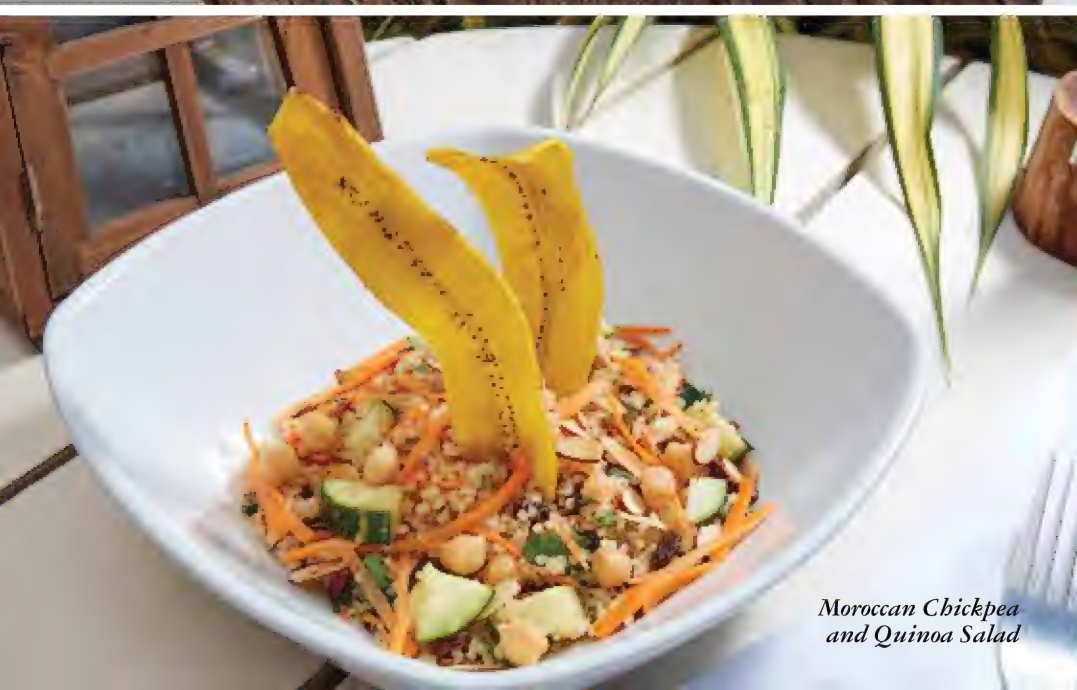
*Strawberry & Banana Daiquiri*



*Piri Piri Shrimp Pot*



*Plantain and Coconut Soup*



*Moroccan Chickpea  
and Quinoa Salad*



*Seafood Trinity*



*Shrimp Mandarin*

## The Lazy Turtle

# Caribbean Cuisine with a Kick!

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

Caribbean cuisine is one of the most diverse genres of cuisine, thanks to the many island nations in the region and the storied history of these islands, which have been influenced by Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and distinct local Creole traditions. From jerk to roti, curries to pepperpot stews, Caribbean dishes highlight a fusion of flavors and melded traditions that yields complex character.

On Aruba, one restaurant that celebrates some of the most beloved Caribbean cuisine is The Lazy Turtle, an outdoor eatery at Paseo Herencia Mall. Opening about four years ago, I must admit I had never dined there until recently. I have been to many islands around the Caribbean, and the food scene has always kept my fork delightfully entertained, but I really had no idea I could take a culinary journey around the Caribbean right here on Aruba.


Locally owned by Sheldon and Maryuri Leuden and Maryuri's sister, Liliana, The Lazy Turtle's menu reflects an eclectic melting pot of offerings. The signature dishes we sampled included the gorgeously presented and exotic Plantain and Coconut Soup, with grilled shrimp; the Seafood Trinity, with lobster, shrimp, and grouper delicately infused with a hint of lemongrass and citrus aromas in a seafood consommé; the spicy, African-inspired Kuvuta Kuku, with tender chicken breast (also available with tofu); Piri Piri Shrimp Pot, a Tunisian-influenced dish with fried quinoa and mushrooms; Moroccan Chickpea and Quinoa Salad, with honey passion-fruit dressing; and Shrimp Mandarin, with passion fruit, grilled pineapple, and mandarin. The portions are generous and the prices are reasonable.

For more information, call +297-587-1992 or follow the restaurant on Facebook at @TheLazyTurtleAruba.



*Kuvuta Kuku*





# *Destination Dining* on a Private Island

Text by Tina Causey Orslick  
Photography by Steve Keith



xperiences—it's all about the many experiences within the overall experience that add the rich layers to a memorable vacation. And when dining out while on vacation, nothing beats a culinary experience that stands apart not just because of the food but also because of the unique environs. For many of us, an island vacation must-do is the quintessential toes-in-the-sand dining experience (tiki torches included!). There are several venues along Aruba's coastline that offer their own variation of barefoot seashore dining, but journeying by boat to a private island for a dining experience feels so exclusive, so unique, and worlds away from life back home.



Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino's private island has captured social media by storm, thanks to the resident flamingos that have become Instagram gold. But unless you've been a guest of Renaissance or one of the lucky few to stand in line to get one of the limited day passes available, scoring a boat ride to the island has always been just about impossible... until now. Every Wednesday evening, Renaissance offers a private island dining experience that anyone can enjoy, even if not a guest of the resort.

The idyllic evening begins dockside at the downtown marina (behind Lucy's), where you are greeted with a welcome cocktail before boarding the shuttle boat that will whisk you away to the island. Once on the island, slip off those shoes and settle in for a culinary adventure of four courses catered to your seaside table as dusk settles and the stars start to twinkle.



The evening begins with an amuse-bouche, compliments of the chef, accompanied by live music, followed by an appetizer, the main course, and dessert. The dishes alternate from week to week between these two menus:

**AMUSE:** Andalusian gazpacho with extra-virgin olive oil

**APPETIZER:** King crabmeat salad served with caramelized peaches, bourbon vinaigrette, and sweet pepper compote

**MAIN COURSE:** Tortellini stuffed with beef short ribs, served with creamy mushroom sauce, garlic crostini, and Parmesan foam OR Chilean sea bass served with pumpkin mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus with vanilla carrot sauce

**DESSERT:** Piña colada mousse with pineapple compote and coconut Chantilly

**AMUSE:** Sweet potato and carrot mousse served with crisp bacon chips

**APPETIZER:** Seared scallops served with potato foam, shallots, apple marmalade, and green pea puree

**MAIN COURSE:** Herb-crusted lamb chop with five-spice roasted pumpkin puree, glazed chile, and baby bok choy OR pan-seared salmon with celeriac puree, served with a soy orange reduction, pickled onion, and green asparagus

**DESSERT:** Black forest double-chocolate cake with ponche crema sauce

*Above:*

*Sweet potato and carrot mousse served with crisp bacon chips*

*On the left:*

*Seared scallops served with potato foam, shallots, apple marmalade, and green pea puree*








*Above:  
Pan-seared salmon with celeriac puree  
served with a soy orange reduction,  
pickled onion, and green asparagus*

*On the left:  
Herb-crusted lamb chop with five-spice  
roasted pumpkin puree, glazed chile, and  
baby bok choy*

The price is \$75 plus gratuity and taxes (children are half price). Groups and special events welcome! For more information and to book your Dinner Under the Stars, visit the website at <http://www.renaissancearubaresortandcasino.com> or contact the Renaissance at +297-583-6000. 



## PUTTING REALITY ON **PAUSE.**

Comfortably situated just beyond the real world and all of life's responsibilities lies Okeanos Spa at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. Our signature treatments, Aruban aloe and transformative salon combine to give you a place that's worthy of being called paradise. Speaking of heaven on earth, Spa Cove on Renaissance Island awaits you with massages along the shore, where the waves are just as gentle as our touch.

Okeanos Spa is located at Renaissance Mall,  
Oranjestad City Center.

For information, call 297.583.6000 ext 6176  
or visit [renaissancearubaspaspa.com](http://renaissancearubaspaspa.com).

Like us on [Facebook.com/OkeanosSpa](https://www.facebook.com/OkeanosSpa)

# It's Taco Time!


## Lola Taqueria Debuts in Palm Beach

*M*ove over, gourmet burgers—tacos are now tops when it comes to the upscale street-food trend, utilizing high-quality, fresh ingredients, along with scratch tortillas and authentic salsas. Aruba's most notable entry to the luxe taco scene is Lola Taqueria. Lola's hip streetside digs in the heart of Palm Beach add some legit street cred to the trendy taco joint, which offers patrons a front-row seat to the action along the strip and in the open-view kitchen.

True taco supremacy starts with the tortilla, and Lola—which opts for the corn tortilla for most of the tacos—makes them fresh daily in-house. We sank our teeth into the carne asada taco and loved that Lola uses the traditional skirt steak in these; they are topped with fresh avocado sauce, white onion, and a sprinkle of cilantro. Given Lola's location just off of Palm Beach, we had to try the fish tacos composed of Caribbean sea bass, prepared in a batter made with the local Chill beer and garnished with shredded red cabbage and pica di papaya mayo. Lola also has several out-of-the-box tacos featuring non-traditional ingredients, and the roasted Brussels sprouts tacos were irresistible with just the right amount of sweet-meets-tanginess from the tamari soy glaze and fresh orange.

In total, Lola has nine gourmet tacos to savor (with more on the horizon), ranging from \$6 to \$9 (two per order). The tacos are served with a variety of house-made salsas, including pica de gallo, salsa verde, chile morita, and pica di papaya. There are also several appetizers, including another street fav—grilled corn on a stick with chipotle mayo and a dusting of cotija cheese.

Wash it all down with local and craft beer, fresh margaritas (the jalapeño-infused one rocks!), and signature cocktails from the next-door neighbor and sister restaurant, CRAFT.

Lola, located at J.E. Irausquin Blvd 348-A (across from Hilton), is open seven days a week from 5 pm to 1 am. Visit the website at [www.lolataqueria.com](http://www.lolataqueria.com) or call +297-280-2888 for more information. 





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# Harbour House Aruba and the Revival of Waf Chiquito

**T**he former Mar Azul Condominiums and the Mar Azul Marina Mall, the massive abandoned development on Weststraat, recently found redemption under its new name, Harbour House Apartments and the Harbour Stores.

The complex has also undergone a clever repositioning. Instead of its main mall entrance facing Weststraat, the new layout calls for major shopping and dining on the ocean side, with a spacious promenade, as an extension of the Green Corridor, showcasing the beauty of the Oranjestad harbor.

Developer Albert Perret Gentil of Blue & Azul Condominiums credits his brother with the brilliant idea of placing the parking garage under the building and elevating the infinity pool, à la Renaissance in Curaçao, for a more functional and dramatic use of the space.

With the project fully facing the water, seven harbor shops will be available for rent to reputable and experienced high-end F&B or retail experts. While Perret Gentil believes it will take a while to find synergy, he is confident that Weststraat, once a swinging neighborhood, will find a successful

formula, perhaps à la Wynwood, Miami, and he is relying on the owners of neighboring real estate, including the harbor, Stichting Rancho, the fishermen, and the souvenir vendors of Waf Chiquito, to come together for a comprehensive urban revival plan of the area.

Harbour House offers 96 units, from studios to four-bedroom residences; on-site parking; 24-hour security; boat service to the beach; top-floor solarium with hot tub; food & beverage; a swanky lobby; a fitness center; and a rooftop with 360-degree views of the island.

Best of all, you're welcome to move in starting in 2020.

Perret Gentil remarks that an eclectic group of architects, designers, and engineers were required to transform the unfortunately bankrupt prime piece of downtown real estate, but it's done. And we should be proud of the rescue plan, breathing new life into the once-popular Waf Chiquito.

His company just opened the first AZUL tower, on Eagle beach, one of two, and is planning the further construction of some townhouses in the back, facing the green areas. [T](#)



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# The Big Reveal

at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

*A*t the beginning of 2019, after much anticipation, The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, revealed its campaign for 2019: WIN A FERRARI 488 SPIDER! This announcement has gathered local and international attention, as this is the first time that a casino in the Caribbean region is raffling a high-end luxury car.

The Ferrari 488 Spider has a retractable hard top, sleek design, and a 3902cc turbocharged V8 engine, enabling it to sprint from 0 to 60 mph in three seconds. The interior is inspired by Ferrari's Formula 1 philosophy of creating a seamless relationship between driver and car.

Each visitor of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba,



has the opportunity to participate to win the Ferrari by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club, which offers unique benefits. Once a member, a player can accumulate points to receive raffle tickets, earning one ticket for every 80 points on the slot machines and for every \$40 of theoretical win on tables. During the year, there will be different incentives for players to earn more raffle tickets. The winner of the car will be selected in December 2019.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, is very proud to bring this car to the island, as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton brand. For more information about participating in the Ferrari 488 Spider campaign, please visit the VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, or contact +297-527-2276/527-2277. 📞

## Passions on the Beach

Visitors of all ages are welcome to experience their lunch and dinner on the beach while listening to the soothing sound of the gentle waves caressing the shore.

**LUNCH: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**HAPPY HOUR: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**DINNER: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

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# CARNIVAL 65

## *A Spectacular Affair!*

Text by Rona Coster  
Carnival images by Rona Coster and 24ora



The pre-Lenten, over-the-top festival of Carnival is celebrated all over the world, and here in Aruba, it's been going strong for 65 years.

With a milestone like this, everyone expected this year's Carnival season to really wow, and as an enthusiastic participant in many of the festivities, I can proudly confirm that it lived up to the hype.

### **J'ouvert Morning – February 23, 2019**

J'ouvert Morning was bigger than ever this year. The annual “pajama party” took place between 3 am and 8 am in the colorful southern town of San Nicolas—the birthplace of Aruba's Carnival. A long throng of dancers in the craziest outfits completed a loop through the streets, accompanied by great music, for a memorable free-for-all celebration. The bands were electrifying, and we jammed for hours on end, surrounded by hundreds of happy, smiling people, all having a great time. The “People's Carnival” was truly an extraordinary experience!

## Aruba's Lighting Parade – February 23, 2019

This year's magnificent Lighting Parade in Oranjestad enjoyed 4,380 participants. The parade, spread over four kilometers, included 12 groups, two brass bands, one steel band, and a disco. (In comparison, last year's Lighting Parade saw seven groups and 2,730 participants.)

This parade and all others thereafter were opened by the Empire Carnival Group, themed "Neon Party," by virtue of its candidate for the Grand Carnival Queen Competition winning the ultimate Carnival Queen crown. Queen Mimi rode at the opening of the parades on a lovely decorated float, shared by many previous title winners, as Empire Carnival Group decided to salute those past queens with one more parade in honor of the island's 65th Carnival. The group also facilitated a comeback for Musical Times, a popular '80s band, getting the original performers together for this year's Carnival festivities.

The opening segments of all parades were put together by ELITE and sponsored by Setar, with the elegantly costumed Setar dancers delighting parade attendees. Setar also contributed to a great sound setup for Upgrade Music, headlined by Jeon, Aruba's international reggaeton star.

## San Nicolas Grand Parade & Aruba's 65th Grand Parade – March 2 & 3, 2019

Starting at 10 am and culminating past 6 pm, the Grand Parade in San Nicolas counted 4,550 colorful participants in 14 groups. On the following day, the parade in Oranjestad featured even more participants, the number reaching 4,600. This





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**DINNER: 5:00 PM - 10:30 PM**

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| For menu and reservations: [www.mvceaglebeach.com](http://www.mvceaglebeach.com) |  
| +297 527 1118 | [concierge@amsterdammanor.aw](mailto:concierge@amsterdammanor.aw) |

latter parade was the biggest show of all times, its duration reaching a record of more than four hours, with the last group finishing the route after 7 pm and continuing straight to the Burning of the Momo, the final hurrah of the Carnival season, at the Harbor Arena.

Gratitude is due to all those creative personalities who gave us such an exceptional Carnival season. Until next year! 🍹



# Island Life

## Aruba's Best-Kept Diary

— SELECTION OF COLUMNS FROM 1992 - 2004 —

*By Rona Coster*



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# *Investing in the Island Lifestyle*

Aruba's Life Condominiums offers buyers affordable luxury and authentic island lifestyle

The dream of living on a Caribbean island is becoming an achievable reality. Savvy developers are creating affordable alternatives to posh, multi-million-dollar condominiums, resulting in vacation and retirement projects that offer an authentic island lifestyle away from the hustle and bustle of the commercial, touristy areas of the island.

Aruba's Life Condominiums, scheduled for completion in 2019, is developing just such an opportunity for those yearning for an island retreat that features modern amenities and luxury, set in a quiet, charming locale.





## Location, location, location...

Away from it all, but oh so close! Tucked away in a quaint island neighborhood, Aruba's Life is located close to the island's picturesque north coast, where homeowners can enjoy hiking, mountain biking, or quiet contemplation in the serene countryside. A five-minute drive brings homeowners to the excitement of Palm Beach for world-class shopping, dining, and entertainment.


## Investment

Vacation-home ownership is growing every year, and with the rise of booking platforms like Airbnb and Booking.com, NOW is the time to let your vacation home work for you! Aruba's Life also offers an optional Rental Management Service.

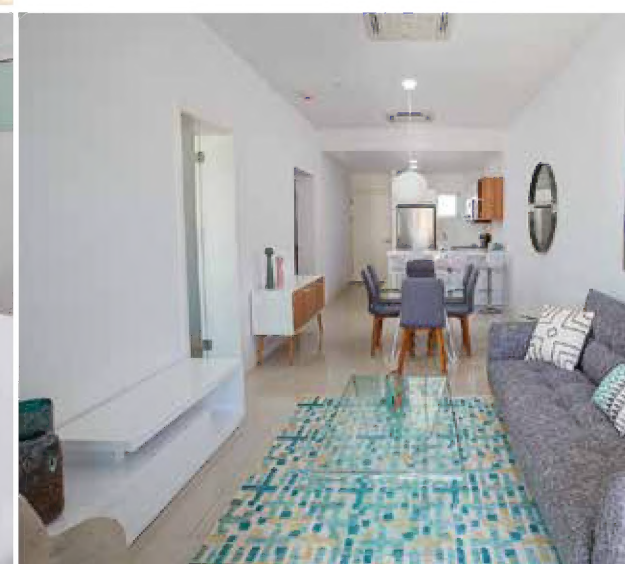
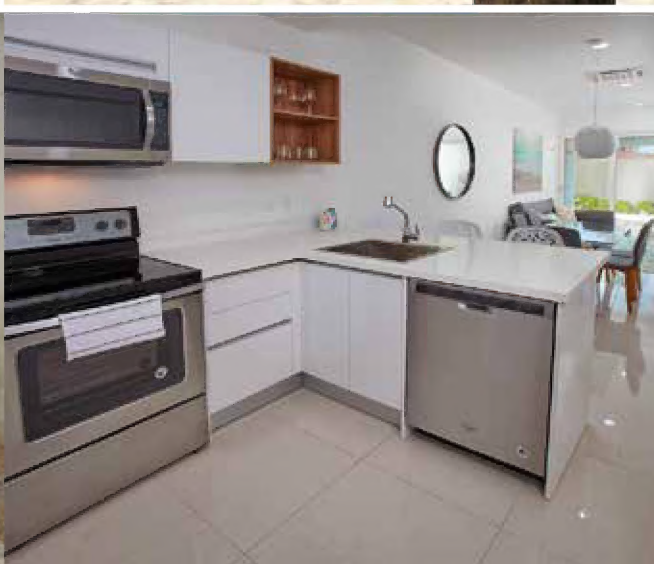
## Quality

Aruba's Life features top-quality construction materials (the entire project is built with concrete and masonry); a sustainable, environment-friendly water system; and energy-efficient air conditioning in each of the 50 units. Each unit also features durable and resilient Silestone kitchen surfaces and tiles in the bathroom and living area.

## Amenities

Stay active and keep up with your workouts in the fitness facility; swim a few laps in the morning in the 25-meter lap pool; stay active island-style with three beach-tennis courts and a beach volleyball/soccer court; escape to the Relax Zone for an island siesta; unwind in the Jacuzzi with a glass of wine; or enjoy a cocktail or a bite to eat at the on-site bar and restaurant. Want to hit the beach? Jump in the beach shuttle for easy access to Aruba's popular beaches. 

*For more information, visit the website at [www.arubaslifenet.net](http://www.arubaslifenet.net), or call today at +297-699-2979 to schedule a walk-through.*





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